CALENDAR FOR 1986

TERRA

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

VOL. 24, NO. 2 • NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1985

THE WORLD OF THE MUSEUM

THE WORLD OF THE MUSEUM

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County will celebrate its seventy-fifth anniversary in three years. It is thus a relatively young institution when compared with its colleagues in the East and Midwest. Its youth, however, has not hindered the museum from bringing together a wealth of objects that make its collections international in scope and importance. Containing over fifteen million objects from all corners of the world, the museum has one of the largest collections in the country, a truly national resource.

These collections are the heart of the museum, for from them flows the education programming, the exhibitions, the research, and the publications that bring the museum to the public. The museum calendar this year illustrates the international nature of the collections and provides a glimpse into the rich diversity of the museum's holdings.

Craig C. Black
Director

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County ranks third in the nation among natural history museums in size of collections. Over 15 million specimens and artifacts covering several billion years of earth's history are contained in its collections, including the largest catalogued vertebrate fossil collection in North America. Through the year, exhibitions, education programs, lectures, and events such as the Annual Craft Fair in June and the Native American Festival in December are provided for the general public.

ADDRESS. 900 Exposition Boulevard, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, California 90007.

TELEPHONE. 213/744-3414; recorded information, 213/744-3411.

HOURS. Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mondays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

ADMISSION. $1.50 for adults; $.75 for students, children 5 to 17, and senior citizens 62 and older; children under 5 are admitted free. Admission is free to Museum Members. Admission is free to the general public on the first Tuesday of each month.

TOURS. Guided and unguided tours for school classes are available from October through May by reservation only; reservations are not required at other times. For further information, call the Education Division, 213/744-3333. Tours for adult groups may be arranged by calling 213/744-3341.

MOVEABLE MUSEUM. Trained volunteers from the museum's Docent Roundtable give presentations on subjects related to the elementary school curriculum in schools and libraries in the Los Angeles area. The talks are illustrated with slides and artifacts from the museum's collections. Information and reservations may be obtained by calling the Education Division, 213/744-3344.

LENDING SERVICE. Historical objects, models, mounted animals, pictures, and slides are available for two-week loan periods to adults subscribing to the museum's Lending Service. The annual subscription fee is $10.00. The Lending Service is open from mid-September to mid-June; hours are Tuesday through Friday, 2 to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For further information, call the Education Division, 213/744-3345.

LIBRARIES. The Research Library is open to the public by appointment from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. The Seaver Center for Western History Research is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information, call the Research Library, 213/744-3387, or the Seaver Center, 213/744-3359.

GROUND FLOOR CAFETERIA. The cafeteria and adjacent patio are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Special meals may be arranged for tour groups and school classes. For further information, call 213/747-2089.

THE ETHNIC ARTS SHOP. This shop, located at the north entrance, offers distinctive, high-quality art and craft items from around the world, an impressive array of mineral specimens and bookends, and a selection of ethnic clothing and accessories. In addition, a special textile room showcases handmade blankets, rugs, wall-hangings, and pillows. Museum Members receive a 10 percent discount. For further information, call 213/744-3336.

THE BOOK SHOP. The Book Shop, which is located at the north entrance across from the Ethnic Arts Shop, carries an authoritative assortment of titles in all areas of natural history, a comprehensive selection of books on pre-Columbian Mesoamerica, and sections on early California and Los Angeles history. Also for sale are notecards, postcards, and posters. Museum Members receive a 10 percent discount. For further information, call 213/744-3434.

THE DINOSAUR SHOP. Dinosaurs of all shapes and sizes decorate T-shirts, mugs, models, and posters in this colorful shop at the south entrance. The Dinosaur Shop also features a wide assortment of educational games, books, and toys for the young and young at heart. Museum Members receive a 10 percent discount. For further information, call 213/744-3489.

PAGE MUSEUM OF LA BREA DISCOVERIES

The Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries documents the history and significance of the Rancho La Brea Pits—the richest source of Ice Age plant and animal fossils in the world. The museum features reconstructed skeletons of animals once trapped in the asphalt; visitors can watch staff members and volunteers work on fossil bones in the Paleontology Laboratory.

ADDRESS. 5801 Wilshire Boulevard, Hancock Park, Los Angeles, California 90036.

TELEPHONE. 213/857-6311; recorded information, 213/936-2230.

HOURS. Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mondays and Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

ADMISSION. $1.50 for adults; $.75 for students, children 5 to 17, and senior citizens 62 and older; children under 5 are admitted free. Museum members are admitted free. Admission is free to the general public on the second Tuesday of each month. Admission to both the Page Museum and the nearby Los Angeles County Museum of Art is available at a reduced price with the Combined Admission Ticket, which may be purchased at either museum.

TOURS. Guided tours of the museum and the tar pits are available for school classes and the general public. School classes are only admitted to the museum with advance reservations. For further information and reservations, call the Tours Office Wednesday through Friday between 1 and 4 p.m. at 213/857-6306.

THE PAGE MUSEUM SHOP. The shop carries a wide selection of educational kits, models, games, puzzles, and toys for children and has a fine assortment of natural history books. Also for sale are mineral specimens and jewelry, large color postcards of the museum and its exhibits, and gifts for animal lovers. The shop is at the entrance to the museum and is open from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Museum Members receive a 10 percent discount. For further information, call 213/931-5273.

MEMBERSHIP IN TWO GREAT MUSEUMS

Membership categories range in price from $20 to $1,000 per year. In addition to supporting two vital cultural institutions, membership in the Natural History Museum and Page Museum provides special benefits, including:

- Free admission to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County in Exposition Park and the George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries in Hancock Park.
- A year's subscription to the award-winning *Terra* magazine and the bimonthly calendar of events.
- Invitations to special members-only events, such as the behind-the-scenes Open House at the Natural History Museum in February.
- Opportunities to join science and history experts on unique and unusual trips all over the world.
- A 10 percent discount in the Ethnic Arts Shop, the Natural History Book Shop, and the Dinosaur Shop at the Natural History Museum, and the Page Museum Gift Shop.
- Additional benefits for higher level memberships.

For further information, visit the Membership Office at the Natural History Museum or call 213/744-3426.

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TERRA

THE MEMBERS' MAGAZINE
OF THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
AND THE PAGE MUSEUM
OF LA BREA DISCOVERIES

VOL. 24, NO. 2 • NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1985

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January

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
			1 new year's day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 martin luther king, jr.'s birthday	16	17	18
19	20 martin luther king, jr.'s birthday observed	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

This mid-nineteenth-century folding fan from the museum's costume and accessory collection is built on a skeleton of mother-of-pearl sticks and guards inlaid with gilt and gold foil. On each side of the leaf is a hand-colored lithograph. This fan, probably made in Spain, is said to have been presented by Queen María Cristina to one of her ladies-in-waiting. Photograph by Susan Gipson.

February

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
						1
2 groundhog day	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 abraham lincoln's birthday	13	14 valentine's day	15
16	17 george washington's birthday observed	18	19	20	21	22 george washington's birthday
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Mamenchisaurus, one of the largest sauropod (giant plant-eating) dinosaurs ever discovered, as restored by William Stout. The original fossil skeleton, on which this painting was based, was found in China and is of Late Jurassic age, approximately 140 to 155 million years old. A cast of this skeleton was recently acquired by the museum and is on display. Photograph by Jim Patten, courtesy of the California Academy of Sciences.

March

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 arbor day in california	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 st. patrick's day	18	19	20 first day of spring	21	22
23 easter sunday	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Reed orchid *(Epidendrum)*, an epiphyte on small trees found near Sucusari, on the Rio Napo, Peru. (Below) A small crab spider (Thomisidae) mimics the blossom and escapes detection by flower-visiting insects, which fall prey to the spider. This spider is now one of the over 4 million specimens that make up the museum's entomology collection. Photographs by Charles L. Hogue.

ABRAHAMI PATRIARCHAE PEREGRINATIO, ET VITA.
Abrahamo Ortelio Antverpiano auctore.
ABRAHAM EGREDERE DE TERRA TVA, ET DE COGNATIONE TVA, ET VENI IN TERRAM QVAM MONSTRAVERO TIBI.
Septemtrio.
Occidens.
Oriens.
Meridies.
Privilegio Imperiali, Regio, et Belgico decennali 1586.
Dno Ioanni Mossiniaco Montis S. Winoxy abbati reverendo, viro humanitate & candore eximio, multiplicique rerum cognitione nobili; Ab. Ortelius in perpetuę amicitiæ pignus DD.
ET DABO TIBI ET SEMINI TVO POST TE, TERRAM PEREGRINATIONIS TVAE, OMNEM TERRAM CHANAAN, IN POSSESSIONEM AETERNAM.

April

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 passover	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Abraham Ortelius (1527–1598) of Antwerp, Belgium, was a mapmaker best known for his *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (1570), the first modern atlas, from which the frontispiece portrait of Ortelius (below) is taken. *Abrahami Patriarchae Peregrinatio* (1590, above), a map showing the life and travels of the Biblical patriarch Abraham, appeared in the *Parergon*, an atlas of ancient geography. The museum's historic records section contains an extensive collection of maps dating from the sixteenth century to recent times.

May

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 mother's day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 memorial day observed	27	28	29	30 memorial day	31

Anchura falciformis (above) was a snail in the family Aporrhaidae, commonly known as pelican's foot shells, which lived on the sea bottom of what is now northern California about 79 million years ago. Most of the aporrhaids became extinct at roughly the same time as the dinosaurs. Only three related species live today; one of these (bottom) is *Aporrhais serresiana,* found in the northeastern Atlantic Ocean. The fossil specimen is part of the large UCLA invertebrate fossil collection recently transferred to the Natural History Museum. *Aporrhais serresiana* comes from the museum's collection of living shells. Photographs by John De Leon.

June

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 flag day
15 father's day	16	17	18	19	20	21 first day of summer
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

This lithograph of a J. W. Audubon watercolor of the North American water shrew, *Sorex palustris*, was printed in 1847. The lithograph belongs to the museum's Research Library collection. Water shrews (below) are found throughout forested North America; they eat their weight each day in insects, fish, and tadpoles. The museum's research collection of more than 75,000 mammals contains a number of specimens of water shrews. Photograph by Dwight R. Kuhn.

July

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
		1	2	3	4 independence day	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

The badge of the Order of Saint Catherine was awarded to Russian ladies of the higher nobility and royal family. The order was founded by Peter the Great in 1714 in honor of his wife, Catherine, who had been instrumental in rescuing Peter and his army from certain capture by the Turks in 1712. The badge's enamel plaque shows Saint Catherine of Alexandria, an early Christian martyr. The Order of Saint Catherine is very rare; many of the badges were dismantled following the Russian Revolution. This badge is one of several thousand orders, decorations, and medals in the museum's Robert B. Honeyman Collection. Photograph by Dick Meier.

August

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

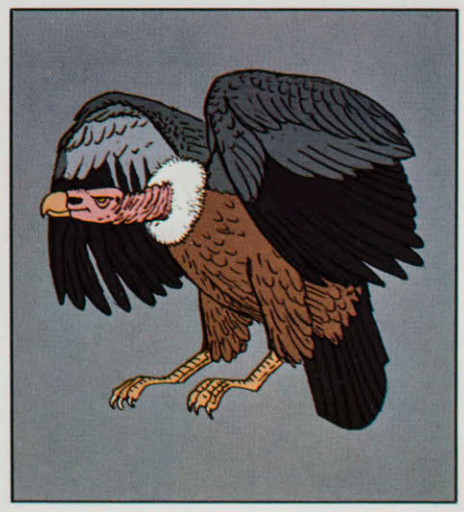
A Yoruba mask made circa 1890 for use in Gelede cult dances, which were performed to placate witches and neutralize the adverse effects of witchcraft. The Yoruba live in Togo, Dahomey, and southwestern Nigeria. This West African mask is one of the 30,000 artifacts in the museum's ethnographic collections. Photograph by Dick Meier.

SEE LAST DWG FOR COLOR OF CAT
DARK MIX { 3/4 GRAY 29 / 1/4 W.G. 20
MED. MIX { 3/4 GRAY 20 / 1/4 WG 12
X6Y4
TEETH GRAY 5 DK INSIDE MOUTH
GRAY 14
REG BODY OF CAT TO (HX)
pads are more
+ Val tongue
nose + gums
1

September

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
	1 labor day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 first day of autumn	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

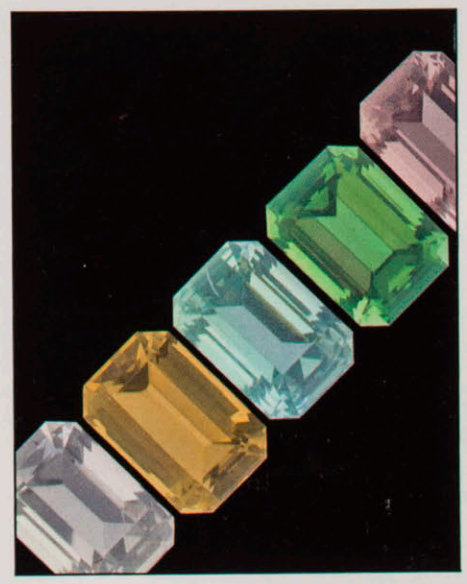
(Above) A saber-toothed cat defends itself from a marauding dire wolf in this cell from an animated section of the film *The La Brea Story.* Notations on the drawing indicate the colors animators should use in subsequent frames. Made for the George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries in 1977 by Bruce Bloch Productions, the film is shown daily in the museum's La Brea Story Theater. (Below) Part of a sequence of a condor alighting on a branch.



October

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
			1	2	3	4 rosh hashanah
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 columbus day	13 columbus day observed yom kippur	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 halloween	

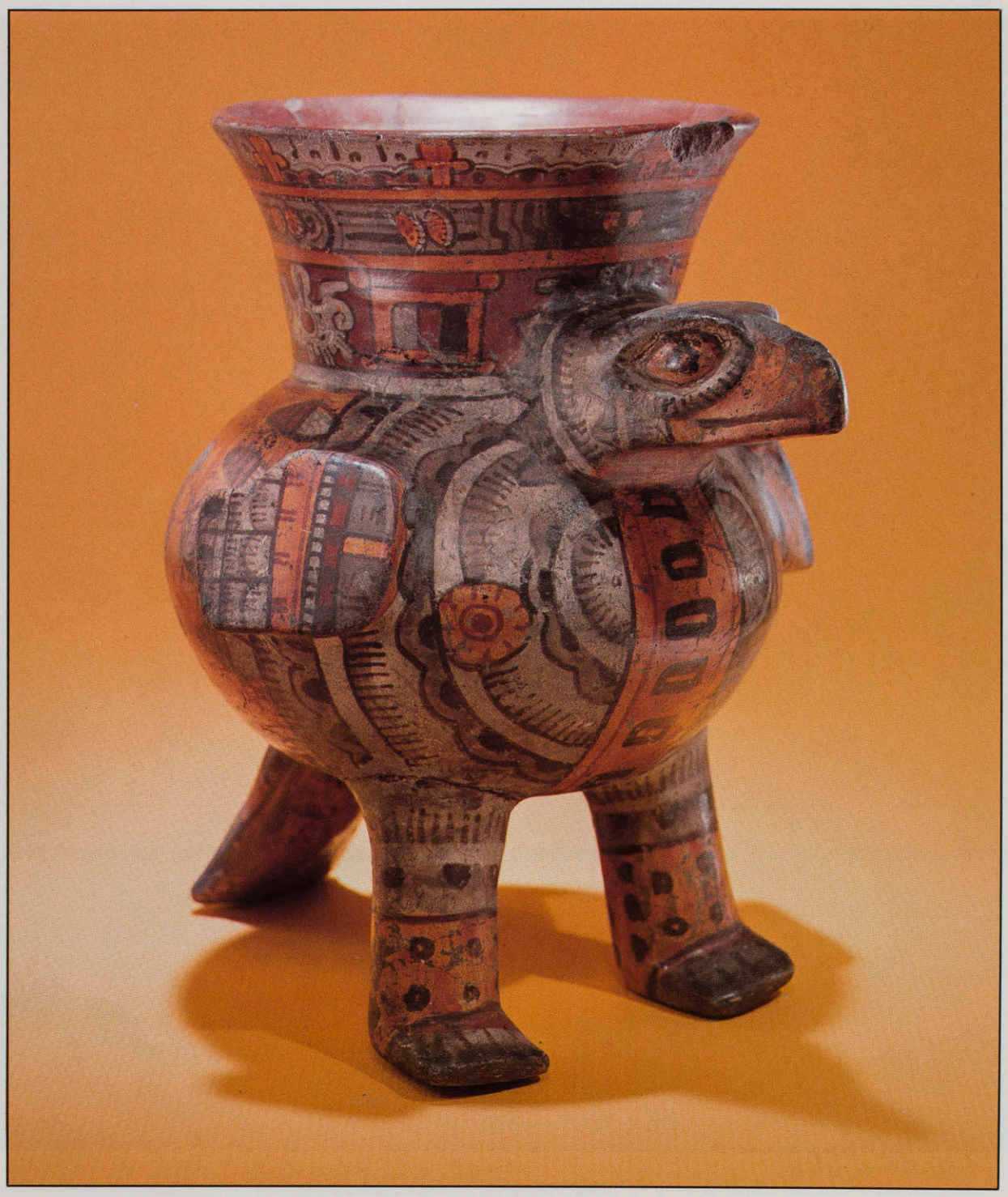
Pink pyramid-shaped crystals, shown above growing on pyrite, are among the rarest of natural forms that fluorite takes. This specimen from the museum's collection was recovered from a fluorite vein in Huanzala, Peru. Fluorite is rarely cut into gemstones because it is much too easily scratched or broken to be worn in jewelry. The gems pictured below are from Zimbabwe (pink), Colombia (dark green), New Hampshire (light blue-green), and Tennessee (yellow and colorless). Photographs by Susan Gipson.



November

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
						1
2	3	4 election day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 veteran's day	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 thanksgiving day	28	29
30						

This lizard *(Ameiva bifrontata)* was caught on the shores of Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela. It is over a foot long, including the tail. Lizards of the same species can vary widely in their color, color pattern, and size depending on where they are found. The museum's herpetology section is studying the evolutionary relationship between this lizard and its relatives. Photograph by John De Leon.



December

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 first day of winter	22	23	24	25 christmas day	26	27 chanukah
28	29	30	31 new year's eve			

This eagle effigy vessel is of the Mixteca-Puebla culture, found southeast of Mexico City, and dates from the Late Postclassic period (A.D. 1400 to 1520). Vessels were high-status items in Aztec society and were widely traded. This piece was loaned to the Smithsonian Institution by the Natural History Museum and shown in the exhibition Art of Aztec Mexico: Treasures of Tenochtitlan held at the National Gallery of Art from September 1983 to April 1984. Photograph by Dick Meier.

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
Exposition Park, Los Angeles, California 90007

Experience the richness and vitality of contemporary American Indian Art in the Ethnic Arts Shop.

Through the year the Ethnic Arts Shop maintains an excellent selection of contemporary American Indian art from across the country. Each piece is individually selected for its beauty, value, and quality. Pictured above are a Hopi kachina doll, Zuni animal fetishes, a Miwok shell necklace, and an Acoma pot. Our selection also includes collector-quality pottery, weavings, and baskets. A wide selection is always available, with prices ranging from approximately $8 to $800.

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